

CONNECTICUT DOG FEDERATION, INC.

Position Statement Relative To

Raised Bill No. 274 An Act Prohibiting the Unreasonable Confinement and Tethering of Dogs

The Connecticut Dog Federation is **AGAINST** Bill No. 274 as presently written.

With regard to space requirements when confining dogs, we find the following:

- The one hundred square foot minimum area for one dog in an enclosure, with another fifty square feet for each additional dog in that enclosure, completely ignores the reality that various breeds have different space requirements dictated by body size and normal activity level. To require the same space requirements for a three pound dog and a one hundred pound plus dog is unsatisfactory.
- Certain dogs, such as bitches in season, dogs with medical problems or dogs recovering from surgery require segregation from other dogs. Complete duplication of confinement areas for such dogs would be an unacceptable requirement.
- No distinction is made between indoor and outdoor enclosures, and no provision is made for combined/adjoining indoor enclosures and outdoor runs. Some Towns have Zoning Regulations which prohibit the erecting of fencing.

With regard to tethering requirements, we find the following:

- Breeds used as sled dogs, and other working breeds, require very different tethering requirements than smaller breeds. No distinction is made in the language.
- The requirement that the owner or keeper of a tethered dog must be in visual range of that dog at all times is completely unrealistic. No consideration has been made for the use of electronic surveillance equipment.

In summary, this is a one-size-fits-all bill that cannot reasonably be applied to all breeds. It also does not lend itself to uniform enforcement statewide, even if a sufficient number of trained personnel were available to do so. In addition, in this time of financial deficits, where can the money for training and enforcement come from?

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Revised: March 3, 2010